



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

May 30, 2012, Meeting
El Monte Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670

COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD
VICE CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Secretary Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner George G. Butts

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Aaron Walsh, Airport Project Coordinator
Ms. Victoria Frausto, Staff Assistant

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Ed Sauce, President
Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

GUESTS

Ms. Carmen Sainz, Department of Regional Planning, County of Los Angeles
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Scott Stevenson, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. April 25, 2012, Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Chase.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Wardle referred to the individual airport managers for their reports.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

The carpet in the administration office is scheduled to be replaced during the upcoming weekend. Mr. Marino stated that staff has painted the south waste oil tank on the airport and performed regular maintenance on the operations vehicles.

- **Projects**

As preparation for the upcoming ramp slurry seal project, Mr. Marino sent letters to the impacted tenants requesting that they relocate their aircraft. Aircraft to be relocated for the project are to be parked on the newly constructed tiedown ramp.

- **Development and Activities**

According to Mr. Marino, Avgas sales are down 7 percent, and Jet A sales are up 29 percent from the same month last year. Tiedowns are completely full, and the hangar occupancy is just over 80 percent with six non-aviation tenants.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Runway Safety Action Team met at the airport earlier in the month to review past vehicle/pedestrian deviations and airport operations in general.

The Whiteman Airport Association will host its summer barbeque at the airport on Sunday, July 8th.

Mr. Marino advised the Commission that a new water backflow device located on Airpark Way was stolen on May 17th. A new device has now been installed with additional security measures. No information about the perpetrators has been found.

Mr. Wardle asked Mr. Marino if any follow-up reports have been received since the recent discovery of the use of fraudulent credit cards at the fuel island. Mr. Marino reported that there have not been any reports and that new security cameras have been installed at the fuel island.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General William J. Fox Airfield items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Airport staff is actively soliciting bids to relocate the chain link fence around the airport monument sign. The sign currently sits behind the fence and is less visible in that configuration.

- **Projects**

Mr. Irving thanked Mr. Smith and his staff for expediting the heating ventilation and air conditioning system project, which is currently under way at the terminal building. The unit being replaced dates back to 1959 when the terminal building was originally constructed.

The U. S. Forest Service's (USFS) improvements to its tanker base at the airport are in plan check with the County. Improvements include a new building to support its helicopter operations and two helicopter parking pads. The new lease for the USFS will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in June.

- **Development and Activities**

Commissioner Wolf inquired about hangar vacancies and non-aviation use percentages at Fox Airfield. Mr. Irving reported that there is no non-aviation storage occurring in the County hangars at the airport but affirmed that there is some occurring in third-party hangars. Total airport operations showed almost no change from the same time last year. Jet A fuel sales were down about 50 percent from the same month last year where Jet A fuel sales were high due to unusually extensive USFS training activities.

- **Miscellaneous**

An L-39 jet based at Fox Airfield recently crashed in Nevada. There were two on board the aircraft and there were no survivors of the crash.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Brooks reported on Brackett Field Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

General maintenance on airport vehicles was performed.

A plumbing blockage recently occurred at one of the commercial hangars. Airport staff was able to clear the blockage initially but due to faulty piping, the piping needs to be replaced. As Mr. Woodruff confirmed with Commissioner Simmons, he is in the process of engaging a contractor to do the work.

Damage to one of the airport entrance gates resulting from an impact by a light vehicle was repaired.

Staff continued its weed abatement efforts during the month.

- **Projects**

The Federal Aviation Administration will be sending a survey crew to the airport next week to evaluate the potential for a GPS approach system.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported 39 vacant hangars, which equates to 14 percent of the total hangars. Currently, 45 hangars or 16 percent are being used by non-aviation tenants. Both Avgas and Jet A fuel sales were down 19 and 24 percent, respectively, for the month.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Brackett Airport Association holds its monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month and its aircraft display day on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

General maintenance was performed during the month on the airport operations vehicles, as well as lighting throughout the airport.

Mr. Herrera sent notices to the airport hangar tenants informing them that American Airport Corporation will be conducting its annual servicing of all airport fire extinguishers.

- **Projects**

The remaining work on the replacement of the stairs at the commercial hangars was completed.

- **Development and Activities**

Nineteen percent of the hangars are being used for non-aviation purposes. April fuel sales are down 24 percent from last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum held its air career expo earlier in the month. The event was well attended. Several buses brought in attendees throughout the day.

- **Miscellaneous**

A short discussion followed between Chairman Simmons and Mr. Herrera regarding a tenant dispute that occurred at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

The airport staff safety meeting this month included a field training exercise with a local battalion of the Los Angeles County Fire Department in collaboration with airport management and operations personnel who are the first responders in an airport emergency. Mr. Brooks stated the exercise proved to be a good test of the local command and control system.

The fire extinguishers at the fuel pit were serviced. Typical repairs to airport light fixtures, vehicles, and general repairs to hangars were carried out this month.

- **Projects**

Mr. Brooks and staff installed a new welcome sign at the entrance to the terminal and a transient parking sign at the fuel pit.

Mr. Brooks reported that the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) was officially commissioned and operational.

- **Development and Activities**

Hangar occupancy is at 94 percent full. Total operations are up by 1,000. Avgas fuel sales are up 12 percent and Jet A sales are slightly down. Secretary Amundson inquired about any noise complaints. None were reported.

- **Meetings and Events**

An airport stakeholders meeting is scheduled for next month. An annual hangar inspection is scheduled to begin June 18th.

Mr. Brooks addressed the Commission on the recent news reports of a small airplane penetrating restricted airspace during the President's recent visit to the area. Earlier in the month, a small airplane was intercepted by military jets when it penetrated the restricted airspace. The aircraft was forced to land at El Monte Airport and was met by local law enforcement personnel. The pilot was interviewed and released.

C. County Contract Administrator's Report – Mr. Richard Smith

- **Expense and Revenue Report**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the revenue and expense report and offered to answer any questions. Chairman Simmons inquired about the Information Technology Division charges, which show an increase. Mr. Smith advised the Chairman that recent work to upgrade the Aviation Division website has accounted for the increase in hours billed.

- **New Aviation Division Employee**

Mr. Smith introduced Staff Assistant Ms. Victoria Frausto who will eventually take over the role as administrative staff to the Aviation Commission.

- **Heliport at Brackett Field Airport**

The Aviation Division is currently in negotiations with the consultant selected to design the heliport on the north side of the airport.

- **Capital Improvement Plan at General William J. Fox Airfield**

Work is still ongoing to acquire the 80 acres of land adjacent to the airport, which has been in the plans for many years. A 10-acre parcel is currently being negotiated. Commissioner Cardono asked if this was a standard acquisition, and Mr. Smith affirmed.

- **Division Website Update**

The new website for the Aviation Division is in the planning phase. It can be found under the Transportation Section of the new Department of Public Works website when it becomes operational. There will be a lot of opportunities for airport services and business opportunities to be listed. The vision is to have a one-stop website that will provide comprehensive airport-related information and it is hoped that this site will go live this coming June.

- **State of California Budget Concerns**

With cuts being proposed in many areas of the State budget, only one section raised a concern for division planning. The proposed budget asks for a \$180 million cut to special funds. Because the aeronautics fund is categorized under this heading, it may mean future shortages for matching grant funds and acquisition and development funds, but that has not been confirmed.

- **El Monte Airport Items**

The Aviation Division has been meeting with representatives of the City of El Monte to devise a plan that effectively addresses the trees in the Rio Vista Park which are considered to be obstructions. The Aviation Division consulted with an arborist and has identified suitable replacement trees.

- **Capital Projects Update**

The airport pavement assessment project is complete. The results of the assessments conducted at the airports have provided all of the essential data to develop a base plan on how and when to rehabilitate the pavement surfaces at all five County airports. The assessment was required as part of the FAA's Pavement Management Program.

All of the new AWOS at four of the County airports are up and running.

D. Los Angeles County Regional Planning Presentation

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Carmen Sainz from the Department of Regional Planning (DRP). DRP serves as the Airport Land Use Commission and that one of its responsibilities is to prepare land use compatibility plans for the County's airports. Out of 15 airports, they currently have only one for General William J. Fox Airfield. Recently, however, DRP received a grant from Caltrans to begin the work on the land use plan for Brackett Field Airport. Currently, DRP is working on a scope of work for this project, and the goal is to have the whole plan adopted by 2013. Chairman Simmons asked if DRP had been working on anything new in relation to the Catalina Airport.

Ms. Sainz replied that they had not. Mr. Smith added that the Catalina Airport is being operated by the Catalina Island Conservancy, which is still trying to complete its feasibility study. This is a preliminary step to the master-planning process. Commissioner Wolf asked if Brackett Field Airport was in fact the only airport scheduled to be funded for a land use plan, and Ms. Sainz affirmed.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

The Commission heard discussion from Mr. Scott Stevenson of the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association on marketing the El Monte Airport and exploring the idea of changing the airport's name to better represent services to the San Gabriel Valley.

III. OTHER ITEMS

None.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 7 p.m.
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395**

Secretary Amundson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Holloway seconded the motion. Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission